

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Ralph DLG Torres
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Torres,

Four U.S. Governors have already requested and received Economic Injury Disaster Loan Declarations from the U.S. Small Business Administration, as provided by the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act that Congress passed on March 4 and the President signed into law March 6.

I write to suggest, respectfully, that you make the same request on behalf of businesses and non-profit organizations in the Marianas. A Declaration will make available low-interest loans for working capital to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that cannot be paid because of the economic impact of the coronavirus on our islands.

First, however, the Commonwealth must submit a request to the SBA Administrator for an economic injury declaration related to the coronavirus. The Commonwealth must certify in its request that at least five small businesses in the Marianas have suffered substantial economic injury and provide corroborating detail. "Substantial economic injury" is defined in 13 CFR § 123.300(a)(1) as "... such that a business concern is unable to meet its obligations as they mature or to pay its ordinary and necessary operating expenses."

I, also, urge, again, as I did in my letter of March 16, that you request President Trump make a major disaster declaration in the Marianas, pursuant to the Stafford Act, in order to release additional resources for the Commonwealth to respond to the coronavirus.

If you have any questions regarding the process for requesting an Economic Injury Disaster Loan Declaration, please, let me know; or you may contact Jennifer.Kelly@sba.gov or (202) 205-7036.

Sincerely,



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Governor
The Honorable Victor Borja Hocog, President of the Senate
The Honorable Blas Jonathan Tenorio Attao, Speaker of the House